

Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
Commission Meeting
February 21, 2013

The Commission Meeting for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission was held on Thursday February 21, 2013, at The Sloppy Floyd Government Office Building 2 MLK Jr. Drive Atlanta, GA 30334.

The following Commissioners were present:	Others Present:
J.J. Biello- Chairman Moses Ector- Vice Chairman Hunter Towns Rick Thompson Ben Kiker	Kelly Farr- Executive Director Matt Woodruff Attorney General Office [Graham Barron] Opie Bowen Will Fisher David Oblas Megan Swartslander
	Dr. Malik

Vice Chairman Biello established that a quorum was present and the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission meeting that were scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting starts with Board Elections; Commissioner Moses Ector nominates J.J. Biello to be named Chairman. Commissioner Ben Kiker seconds that motion from Commissioner Ector and the board votes 4-0 to name J.J. Biello the Chairman. Commissioner Rick Thompson makes a motion to name Ben Kiker the Vice Chairman, and Commissioner Kiker declines the offer. Chairman Biello makes a motion to have Moses Ector be named the Vice Chairman, and Commissioner Thompson seconds that motion. The board votes 4-0 to name Moses Ector the Vice Chairman.

Motion to Approve the commission meeting minutes from January 17th, 2013. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to approve, and Vice Chairman Ector seconds that motion. The commission votes 5-0 to approve.

Motion to Amend the agenda by Commissioner Thompson to have who approves the fight cards be brought up now for discussion. Vice Chairman Ector seconds that motion. The commission votes 5-0 to amend the agenda.

Discussion by Chairman Biello wanted to know who was handling that fight cards now. Kelly Farr said that the current way it is, is the promoter submits the card, he reviews it and if there are no safety issues then the card can be approved.

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Commissioner Thompson said that it was under his impression that Mr. Farr was not going to be able to approve cards. There were motions in the past that did not allow him to approve cards. The ABC was going to be ones who approved the cards. Commissioner Thompson said if Kelly Farr is to be approving the cards now then a new motion will need to be in place. Chairman Biello wanted to know if the ABC has been following us and or coming to any events. Mr. Farr said that he understands that the ABC has no interest in helping out. Kelly Farr asked David Oblas if he had ever heard back from them, and Mr. Oblas said that he has not ever heard back. Commissioner Kiker wants to know what the qualifications are for someone to approve the fights. Graham Barron, from the Attorney General's office, said that there is nothing in the rules stating qualifications for someone to approve the card. Commissioner Kiker said practical sense is needed, because if you know the fighters and how the train then you will not have any issues with the fight card. Graham said safety is the number one concern, so as long as whoever is approving the card, if safety is the number one concern then they are qualified. Chairman Biello said that he would talk to Andy Foster a good bit to go over the fight cards to make sure that they were all good and fair fights. Commissioner Thompson is concerned that Mr. Farr has too many responsibilities within the Secretary of State's office that he does not have enough time to keep up with all the new fighters in Georgia. He does not want to go forward with events, until there is one person, who can look at the fighters, study them daily, and look at their records to make sure that each fighter is safe. Mr. Farr said it is impossible to know every fighter on the card. With the sport growing, and always having guys to debut on the card or a fighter coming from out of state, you truly cannot know each and every fighter. Mr. Farr said that if there was a fight that did not look right on paper, he would call the people that he trusted to get their take on the fight, which is normally a commission official or another states commissioner. Commissioner Thompson still is not satisfied with that, because Mr. Farr has too many other jobs, he is not up to date on fighters. He is concerned that Mr. Farr sees only concerns on paper. Kelly Farr said with the number of events that we have, he has more than enough time to review the fight card and can make it a safe card. Commissioner Thompson is still concerned with this. Vice Chairman Ector said when he previously was on the board; the board would give the Secretary of State's office the power to approve the cards. He said that the board would look at the card, and if needed they would call the people they trusted to, to get their opinions on the fight. He also said that in his mind, you do not have to have a full time person in that role. Commissioner Thompson said, in recent years, the executive director has in fact been a full time role and that has been his only role. Commissioner Kiker said that the promoters are the ones who know the fighters really well; perhaps the Executive Director could call promoters to get their takes on it. Graham Barron said we could get outside advice, but legally the approval has to come within the commission. Commissioner Thompson said he would be open to a subcommittee of commissioners to look at the fights and make sure that they agree on the fights. Chairman Biello makes a motion to let Kelly Farr approve the fight cards. Vice Chairman Ector seconds that motion. Commissioner Thompson votes against the motion. Commissioner Kiker said you can get information on fighters from calling other promoters. He said that you have got to know the fighters before you let them fight. Kelly Farr said that there are rules in place on who can and cannot be on the cards. He said that the promoter sends him the card, he reviews it, and if there are any concerns with it, then he will

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raise those concerns. He said that he has people that he trust and it is always more than one person he looks to for advice. The motion votes 4-1 to approve Kelly Farr to approve the cards.

Motion to Approve of the March 2st, 2013 MMA Wild Bills Fight Night 53 second event permit. Chairman Biello asked Matt Woodruff if all the paperwork has been submitted. Mr. Woodruff said that it has been. Commissioner Towns makes a motion to approve the event permit. Commissioner Kiker seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the event permit.

Motion to Approve of the April 5th, 2013 MMA Bangkok Fight Night event permit. Chairman Biello asked Mr. Woodruff if all the paperwork was submitted and Mr. Woodruff stated that it was. Commission Thompson makes a motion to approve the event permit. Commissioner Towns seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the event permit.

Motion to Approve of the April 12th, 2013 MMA NFC 54 event permit. Chairman Biello asked Mr. Woodruff if all the paperwork was submitted and Mr. Woodruff stated that it was. Commission Thompson makes a motion to approve the event permit. Commissioner Towns seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the event permit.

Motion to Approve of the April 13th, 2013 MMA NFC 54 second event permit. Chairman Biello asked Mr. Woodruff if all the paperwork was submitted and Mr. Woodruff stated that it was. Commission Thompson makes a motion to approve the event permit. Vice Chairman Ector seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the event permit.

Motion to Approve of the April 20th, 2013 MMA Harley-Davidson of Cartersville event permit. Chairman Biello asked Mr. Woodruff if all the paperwork was submitted and Mr. Woodruff stated that it was. Commission Towns makes a motion to approve the event permit. Commissioner Thompson seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the event permit.

Motion to Approve of Doro Inc. MMA promoter's license application. Chairman Biello wants to know who the promoter is. Mr. Woodruff said that it is Sean Doro out of Athens. Chairman Biello said that they like to have first time promoters come meet with the commission. Chairman Biello makes a motion that this be placed on the March agenda so that Sean Doro can come to the meeting. Commissioner Thompson seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to table until March.

Motion to Approve the updated wrestling license application. Kelly Farr said that the only thing that we are doing is changing the form and giving it an updated look to match all the other forms we currently have. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Towns seconds, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve the updated application.

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Motion to Approve the updated ticket brokers license application. Kelly Farr said that this is just as the wrestling license. It is just a simple facelift and it flows more easily with all the rest. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion. Vice Chairman Ector seconds that motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to approve.

Motion to Change a fight result from the January 26th, 2013, James Corbett event. Chairman Biello asked for the explanation of what happened. Opie Bowen said during one of the fights, the time keeper let the time go 4 minutes instead of going 3 minutes. Commissioner Thompson was worried that the commission officials did not notify the office to let them know that a mistake was made. Kelly Farr said that they did notify us about the mistake at the event. Commissioner Kiker wants to know what the score of the fight was, and Mr. Woodruff stated it was a 30-27, 29-28, and 30-27. Graham Barron said that the commission might not have the authority to change the event since it was an amateur event sanctioned by another agency. Mr. Farr said this was regulated by the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission because it was a mixed event. Commissioner Kiker stated that this is a serious break of regulations in messing up the time; it's a mistake that should never happen. The timekeeper is the most important person in the fight. Mr. Farr said that he was not sure who the timekeeper was, he was someone used before, but he will not be used anymore. Chairman Biello said that 30-27 is a dominant win for someone. Commissioner Thompson said he has a problem with letting one of our fights happen where the rules were not followed. Chairman Biello said that if these fighters want a rematch to settle this then that would be best. Chairman Biello said he is fine with moving this to a no contest. Commissioner Thompson and Vice Chairman Ector also agree with that idea. Vice Chairman Ector makes a motion to move this to a No Contest. Commissioner Thompson seconds that motion, and the Commission votes 5-0 to move this to a No Contest.

Discussion of Rashad Jones possible suspension reduction. Vice Chairman Ector wanted to know why he was suspended. Mr. Woodruff stated that at Adrian Patrick's November show, Rashad hurt his ankle; however after the doctor looked at him the pain of the ankle did not match up with where the pain should actually be. Commissioner Thompson said that he feels a decision made by the commission should never be brought back up unless something different transpires that would cause us to re-visit a topic. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to deny his request. Commissioner Kiker seconds that motion to deny the request, and the Commission votes 5-0 to deny the suspension reduction request.

Discussion of possible rule change to rule 85-1-.05(j), the main event start time. Mr. Farr stated this is just a suggestion to the board to move the start time of the main event from 11:59pm to 12:30am. He also stated that this is a rule change for the concern of the officials at the event. This way it would make sure that they are not at an event too long and possibly lose focus. Chairman Biello has one concern of when the fights are truly supposed to start. It would be scheduled to start at 8:30, but it really doesn't until 9:00. If the fights start earlier, then they end earlier. The reason the fights start later is so the promoter can drive up the liquor sales. Chairman Biello said just start the fights earlier. Commissioner Thompson agrees with Chairman Biello saying that we are not in the business of alcohol sales. He likes the idea of charging

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the promoters as much as we can. He does not recall many fights that start much past 12:30. Chairman Biello does not want to change the rule, he likes what is currently in place for the start time. Mr. Farr said the rules did define what too late was; however now it does not with promoter's being able to buy a second event permit to run past midnight. Chairman Biello said to never run into an issue of having a fight start really late is to start the event earlier, at like 8:00pm. David Oblas said that his shows start time is 8:30pm and they usually always start by 8:45pm. He said his goal is also to always end the main event around 12:00am to 12:15am. The second permit is for them to allow people to stay at the bar. The goal of all his shows is to end by 12:15am. Chairman Biello asked him if he then likes to pay the extra fee and Oblas said yes, because it gives them that security of not having to rush to make the final event. Chairman Biello said that the rule is going to stay where it is.

Discussion on Impact testing with Dr. Malik. Kelly Farr said that the reason for this request was because at the previous meeting there was clarification on what the rule is, and Dr. Traub wanted to have more discussion on this issue with the board. Dr. Malik said that this is a computer tool that tests the brain in athletes. This testing has been around for about 10 years, and some professional sports are now going to it. He stated that the high school athletes are required to do it. He also stated that Pennsylvania has already enacted Impact Testing as part of the rules and California is considering adding this testing in. This test will allow the doctors to understand and review a fighter's neurological status. This is a way to see if you have healed from a concussion, because you cannot see that on a normal image. This test will allow us to see the results. You would get a baseline test first to see where you are, and then if you are in fact injured from a concussion by either a KO or TKO they will then have a test to compare the results to. This test allows doctors to know when the person has recovered and when they are allowed to fight again. This test is more for if a fighter wants to come back sooner from a knock out, because most knock outs you are suspended 30 to 60 days and most concussions take about 4 weeks to heal. Dr. Malik said that this testing would be helpful for this sport with fighters, who have to deal with head injuries commonly. Mr. Farr said that the doctors thought this was going to be part of licensure, whereas the commission has stated that they want to ease into this, and use it case by case. Commissioner Thompson said that concussions are important to watch out for, and to get in front of it would be good. He is worried about what the cost would be after the baseline test. Mr. Farr said that the rules now see impact testing as something that may be applied, but it is not required. Mr. Farr said that if they board is interested than we could draft up some rules that would make it a requirement for license. Commissioner Thompson would like to see some rules and get in front of this. Mr. Farr wanted to clarify that this test would only be needed if it was a head injury from the fight. Chairman Biello wanted to know what this test is used for now. Dr. Malik said it is used by the high school kids now, who are more likely to get a concussion in sports, like football or soccer. Graham Barron said that the ways the rules are now is it is a medical requirement; however it is not a rule for licensure. David Oblas asked how do fighters take this test, since some fighters are coming from out of state. Where can those fighters take the test? Dr. Malik said that you can take the test online, if someone who supervises the fighter and signs off saying that fighter did in fact take the test. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to have the

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executive director or the attorney general's office to draft up rules. Commissioner Kiker seconds that motion, and the Commission votes 5-0.

Discussion with David Oblas on how the handling of the \$20 license fee at the weigh ins. He said that fighters and trainers usually come to the weigh in and will get licensed there. They are supposed to bring a check, however most do not and only have cash. The fighters and trainers take the cash to the promoter to have him sign off on it. The next night then the GAEC gives the promoter the total for license fees. That total never adds up to the amount of cash received. He said that fighters don't understand that at the weigh ins when he takes the cash that it is going to the GAEC, they feel he is keeping that money. David Oblas wants to know why the commission cannot accept cash. Mr. Farr said that there is a rule in place that we cannot take cash. Commissioner Thompson fully supports that rule too. Vice Chairman Ector said that would cause too many issues if dealing with cash. Chairman Biello said that we have a strong policy in place about not handling cash.

Discussion with David Oblas about the idea of boxing in a cage instead of a ring. Chairman Biello wanted to know who in the country has done that, and David Oblas said he has not done the research yet for that. He has never seen it happen. Mr. Farr said that there are rules in place that makes you have a ring, ropes, etc. Commissioner Thompson wants to know if there are any concerns with this from a fighters mind. Commissioner Kiker said that there are not many differences from boxing in a ring to a cage. The only difference is the shape of the floor. Chairman Biello wants David Oblas to do some research on this to see if other people are doing it. Chairman Biello said we don't need to re-introduce the wheel. Commissioner Thompson said he would like to see it if there is no safety concerns. Mr. Farr said that if this is going to happen then it would require a rule change.

Discussion with David Oblas on the 5% gate fee. He had 2 amateur event shows last year through the athletic commission where he did not pay a gate fee. He has 2 coming up on 3/23 and 4/20. He just wants clarification on if the gate fee is going to be taken out or not since the ISKA show does not require the 5% gate fee. Mr. Farr said that the gate fee is added to the match permit, so it would be something that needs to be turned in. Commissioner Thompson said he reached out to Andy Foster and in the past the gate fee was not taken out from all amateur shows. ISKA does not take the 5% out, where the GAEC does take out the 5%. Commissioner Thompson said he would have us relegate these events instead of handing it off to someone.

Motion to adjourn. Chairman Biello made a motion, Commissioner Kiker and the commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.